

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-35 (Cancelled).

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 68, including a step of deactivating at least one of said nozzles with respect to a direction of advance.

Claims 37-39 (Cancelled).

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 67, including a step of providing a relative movement between the plasma and the substrate parallel to the edge of the substrate.

Claims 41-43 (Cancelled).

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 68, wherein the plasma is also used to remove the coating from end edges or faces of the substrate, wherein the plasma beams are directed essentially in the normal direction onto the end edges or faces.

Claim 45 (Cancelled).

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 70, wherein the shield surrounds a working region of the plasma in the manner of a frame.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 68, wherein particles which are detached in the working region are immediately removed by a discharge device.

Claim 48 (Cancelled).

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 68, used to remove metal, oxide, nitride or organic coatings or combinations of the layer types.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 68, used to remove hydrophobic and/or hydrophilic coatings.

Claims 51-66 (Cancelled).

Claim 67 (Currently Amended): A process for removing a coating from coated substrates, while preparing the substrates for subsequent uses in which a surface of the substrate that has been at least partially freed of coating is required, comprising:

directing a plasma onto a region of a substrate from which a coating is to be removed using a plurality of nozzles, at least one of which is slit shaped, to locally remove the coating, wherein the plasma has an effective width/area determined by the nozzles; [[and]]

modifying the effective plasma width/area by rotating at least one of the slit shaped nozzles; and

producing a relative movement between the rotated at least one of the slit shaped nozzles providing the modified effective plasma width/area and the substrate, to thereby remove a coating from the substrate over a width/area determined by an angle of rotation of the least one of the slit shaped nozzles.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): A process for removing a coating from coated substrates, while preparing the substrates for subsequent uses in which a surface of the substrate that has been at least partially freed of coating is required, comprising:

directing a plasma onto a region of a substrate from which a coating is to be removed using a plurality of nozzles arranged in a row, to locally remove the coating, wherein the plasma has an effective width/area determined by number and/or shape of the nozzles;

producing a relative movement between the plasma and the substrate, parallel to the edge of the substrate;

pivoting the row of nozzles about an axis perpendicular to the substrate in the region of a corner of the substrate; and

producing a relative movement between the plasma and the substrate, parallel to another edge of the substrate.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented): A process for removing a coating from coated substrates, while preparing the substrates for subsequent uses in which a surface of the substrate that has been at least partially freed of coating is required, comprising:

directing a plasma onto a region of a substrate from which a coating is to be removed using a slit shaped nozzle, to locally remove the coating;

producing a relative movement between the plasma and the substrate, parallel to the edge of the substrate;

pivoting the slit shaped nozzle about an axis perpendicular to the substrate in the region of a corner of the substrate; and

producing a relative movement between the plasma and the substrate, parallel to another edge of the substrate.

Claim 70 (Cancelled).